

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-13 OMB-01 RSR-01 /117 W

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R 051356Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8975

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5271

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS REACTION LORD BANIEL VISIT

1. UK MINISTER OF STATE LORD BANIEL'S OFFICIAL VISIT ' JUNE 30-JULY 3) INCLUDING MEETINGS WITH MRS MEIR, FONMIN AND DEFMIN, RECEIVED EXTENSIVE LOCAL COVERAGE AND CRITICAL EDITORIAL COMMENT.

2. PRESS EMPHASIZES THAT GAP BETWEEN BRITISH AND ISRAELI POLICY TO MID EAST REMAINS UNNARROWED. JERUSALEM POST STATES THAT GOI OFFICIALS DISAPPOINTED BY REAFFIRMATION OF OCTOBER 1970 HARROGATE SPEECH CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER WITH EGYPT AS BASIS FOR A MID EAST SETTLEMENT.

3. JERUSALEM POST AND DAVAR EMPHASIZE PRIMIN'S ANGER WITH REMARK BY BALNIEL'S ASSISTANT JAMES CRAIG THAT ISRAEL FIRED FIRST SHOT IN SIX-DAY WAR. DESPITE BALNIEL'S EFFORT TO DOWNPLAY INCIDENT AT LOD AIRPORT PRESS CONF AS "A TECHNICAL AND SMALL MATTER", DAVAR (ESHED) CLAIMS THAT EFFORT TO REWRITE HISTORY IN ANTI-ISRAELI VEIN SYMPTOMATIC OF ANTI-ISRAELI TURN

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IN BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY.

4. ALL PRESS COMMENTS SEE BALNIEL VISIT PRODUCING NO IMPROVEMENT IN UK-GOI RELATIONS. MAARIV (USTOS) STATES THAT BRITISH POLICY IN AREA IS ONE SIDED DESPITE BALNIEL'S ATTEMPTS TO DEPICT IT AS BALANCED. HAARETZ (MARGALIT) ARGUES THAT UK CALL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL GIVES LEGITIMACY TO SIMILAR EFFORTS BY OTHER EUROPEAN STATES. DAVAR (ESHED) INTERPRETS VISIT AS PART OF BRITISH EFFORT TO ISOLATE US AS SUPPORTER OF ISRAEL AND TO CONVINCE US TO CHANGE ITS MID-EAST POLICY. ACCORDING TO ESHED, REAFFIRMATION OF HARROGATE SPEECH IS DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE DELICATE BALANCE OF RESOLUTION 242 -- WHILE MAINTAINING UK PUBLIC IMAGE OF GOOD FRIEND TO ALL PARTIES IN DISPUTE.

5. EMB WILL DISCUSS BALNIEL VISIT WITH FONMIN
AND BRITISH EMB AND REPORT IN DUE COURSE.
ZURHELLEN

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30 JUN 2005

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